

**SPECIAL MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 18, 2015**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 18, 2015, at the Connecticut IB Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Acting Chairman Bryan Hall.

PRESENT Bryan Hall, Acting Chairman, Tyron Harris, Acting Secretary, Tom Rup, Dorese Roberts Valerie Scheer, Christopher Gentile, Stephanie Watkins, Shelby Brown

ABSENT Marilyn Pet
Natalya Robinson, Jazmin Rampassard, Student Representatives

ALSO PRESENT Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent of Schools
Cynthia E. Ritchie, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Curriculum
Anne Marie Mancini, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Dr. Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Marcia Leclerc, Mayor, Town of East Hartford
Robert Pasek, Town Clerk, Town of East Hartford
Don Currey, Chairman, Democratic Town Committee

**NOMINATION OF CANDIDATE TO FILL VACANT BOARD OF EDUCATION SEAT
LEFT BY JEFFREY CURREY**

MOTION By Acting Chairman Bryan Hall
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To nominate Shelby J. Brown, 2 Sunset Ridge Drive, East Hartford, CT to fill the board of Education seat vacated by Jeffrey Currey.
Motion unanimously carried.

Don Currey Chairman, Democratic Town Committee, introduced Town Clerk, Robert Pasek to administer the oath of office to Shelby J. Brown.

Election – Board of Education Officers

MOTION By Christopher Gentile
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To nominate Bryan R. Hall as Chairperson of the Board of Education
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Stephanie Watkins
To nominate Tyron V. Harris as Secretary of the Board of Education
Motion unanimously carried.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

MOTION By Tyron Harris
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To create a Consent Calendar **Under Old Business to include items 2-8 and 10-12:**
2. Policy 5123.2 – Summer School work for Credit
3. Policy 5142.3 – Safety: Skateboard/Rollerblade/Scooter and Other Such Recreational Equipment Use
4. Policy 5156 – Research Involving Students
5. Policy 6111 – School Calendar
6. Policy 6141 – Curriculum Design/Development
7. Policy 6141.2 – Separation of Church and State
8. Policy 6142 – Basic Instructional Program
10. Policy 6144 – Controversial Issues
11. Policy 6144.3 – Controversial Speakers
12. Policy 6145.31 – Underground Publications
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Tom Rup
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To **Table** Policy 6142.101 – Student Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Wellness Policy, **and to refer back to the Policy & Audit Committee.**
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Tyron Harris
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Board Meeting, January 14, 2015 (5:00 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Board Meeting, January 14, 2015 (6:00 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Tyron Harris
Seconded by Valerie Scheer
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Board Meeting, January 20, 2015 (7:00 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

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MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Board Meeting, January 29, 2015 (5:08 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Board Meeting, January 29, 2015 (5:15 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- March 9th – At O’Brien STEM Academy, the 500 students in K-6 will enjoy over \$500.00 worth of new recess equipment on their playgrounds. Funds were awarded from the East Hartford School-Business Partnership and teachers and staff from O’Brien STEM Academy. Surprise guests, Nicole Nalepa, WFSB Channel 3 News, and Sonar, the mascot from The Hartford Wolf Pack, will be present to surprise students with new carts and other equipment. The goal is to encourage students to run and play during recess;
- March 28th (Saturday) – 9:30-1:00 - Bunny Breakfast with Peter Cottontail at EHHS; tickets are \$5; a free Egg Hunt will take place at 11:00 AM in the Gym; for more information call either EHHS 622-5326 or E.H. Parks and Recreation at 291-7160.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS – None

Natalya Robinson, Jazmin Rampassard, Student Representatives (absent)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/No Action Required

Chairman’s Report – Bryan Hall

Chairman Hall noted he is looking forward to working with each and every member of the Board of Education as well as the Superintendent and his cabinet and all members of the East Hartford school district and the East Hartford community. Chairman Hall stated there will be many great opportunities for our children in East Hartford. Now is a great time to get back into the district. Also, congratulations to Shelby Brown. Chairman Hall stated he is looking forward to what Shelby will bring to the table.

Superintendent’s Report – Nathan Quesnel

Superintendent Quesnel congratulated Ms. Shelby Brown on her appointment and congratulated Bryan Hall, Chairman and Tyron Harris, Secretary, as he looks forward to continuing to work with them.

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Status of the Schools: As we move past the 90 Day mark for the year, we have been busy both in Student Achievement meetings at all schools as well as developing the District Mid-Year Report which will be delivered in March. Our data shows consistent growth and improvement. We are also busy developing our Spring plans for district reconfiguration and redesign following our studies that have been conducted from last year and our workshops this fall. While many of these plans are both contingent on receiving important grants or collaborations with state offices, there is much to do in East Hartford.

Updates from the District:

U for Youth: Our parent literacy series, U for Youth was postponed last week due to weather conditions. This program has been designed to provide all district parents with important information and training as to how they can help their child grow and excel in school. Sessions will be designed to provide fun for the entire family with childcare, dinner, prizes and activities. We will also be raffling off iPad mini's to the group of parents that attend all three sessions of the program over the next three months – be sure to get the information coming home on this important event.

Budget Process: We will be meeting with the Town Council on February 25th to give our presentation on the budget. We have met with the Mayor, Town Council Chair and Finance Director. We are appreciative of the conversations and shared effort to develop a town budget that recognizes the needs of our schools and students. In addition, Mr. Mainuli and I presented on Channel 5 a shortened glimpse of our district budget.

District Technology Grant: We are working together to develop and submit a state district technology grant that would enable us to upgrade the aging PC's across our elementary schools. As technology continues to progress, the recommendations for hardware shelf-life ranges between 5-7 years. Unfortunately, due to the challenges we continue to face in our resources, many of our school's machines are far older than the recommended range and experiencing challenges running the programs we are providing for both instruction and intervention.

ChildPlan Leadership Planning/Graustein Foundation: We have participated in a series of meetings of late with both representatives from the Graustein Foundation and outside consultants regarding the districts continued commitment to ChildPlan and the next steps as the organization will undergo a restructure. We firmly believe that ChildPlan needs to continue to be an organizing force in our town and are very engaged in how to support the next steps and the future Executive Director.

Alliance Quarter 2 Progress Meeting: We hosted representatives from SDE on our district progress on the Alliance Grant. The representatives were very impressed and appreciative of our work, accountability, transparency and commitment to continued growth. While we celebrate the good work happening, we double down on areas of growth. It is very exciting for us here in East Hartford and the opportunity to find and use resources to help our kids. Thank you to Anne Marie Mancini.

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Good News Report: CIBA Student Recognized: Please join me in recognizing CIBA 12th grade student Justin Matthew Nortey of East Hartford, CT, who has advanced to the Finalist

standing in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. Mr. Nortey is now eligible to be selected as one of 800 Achievement Scholarship winners that will be drawn from the Finalist group nationally. Mr. Nortey has received a certificate from the National Achievement Scholarship Program in recognition of his status as a Finalist.

CAS Elementary Principal of the Year: We were notified this week that Principal Fox is a finalist for the CAS Elementary Principal of the Year Award. We are excited about this recognition which is becoming a theme for the talent we have in East Hartford.

Staff Spotlight Award: This quarter we recognized Kayleigh Conrad and Sue Kickory with the EHPS Staff Spotlight Award. These professionals continue to represent the dedication, talent and willingness to go the extra mile for our kids. Please take the opportunity to read about them in the Superintendent's Newsletter that was published last week.

Next Steps:

- February 25, 2015 Town Council Chambers: EHPS Budget Presentation
- March 23-27 Elementary Parent Conference Week
- March 26 – Middle School Conference Night

District School Selection Opportunity Process

Anne Marie Mancini, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Curriculum

Ms. Mancini congratulated new Board member, Shelby Brown, as well as our new Chairman Bryan Hall and Secretary Tyron Harris.

Ms. Mancini gave a PowerPoint presentation depicting opportunities for school choices offered to our children in East Hartford. Every family deserves an opportunity to select a school that best meets the needs of their child. We have neighborhood schools and theme schools. For 2015-16, Sunset Ridge School (an IB MYP candidate school for grades 6-7) has approximately 250 students or 125 students per grade, depending on acceptance into RSCO lottery process. For 2016-2017 grades 6-8 is a new opportunity for school choice.

Mailers have been sent home to parents asking if they would like their child to go to Sunset Ridge School. The program will accommodate 450 students maximum. Students can enroll at Sunset Ridge School from any elementary school. Superintendent Quesnel urges parents to fill out the necessary forms early and get the information back to the Assistant Superintendent's Office as soon as possible.

This program enables students to participate in a unique academic program that eventually will earn a specialized diploma and credits toward college.

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On February 23, 2015, 6:00-8:00 PM (snow date: February 24th) Sunset Ridge will host an open house consisting of a presentation, tour and question and answer session.

East Hartford Middle School offers students an opportunity for choice within a larger environment with a variety of extracurricular programs. On February 25, 2015, 6:00-8:00 PM (snow date: February 26th) EHMS will host an open house consisting of a presentation, tour and question and answer session. Students can enroll at EHMS from any elementary school, beginning in grade 6. It offers students a comprehensive academic program that is team-based and engages the whole child.

There are so many opportunities for our students. Families are encouraged to engage in a family discuss regarding school options and child needs. District School Choice form submission deadline is March 6, 2015.

OLD BUSINESS

Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2015-16

Al Costa, Director of Facilities

The Capital Improvement Plan is updated annually per Board policy. The report is then reviewed by the Facilities Committee and then to the full Board for consideration and possible funding strategy. Funding options generally require approval by the Town Council and possibly by voter referendum.

MOTION

By Tyron Harris

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

At the recommendation of the Director of Facilities, that the FY 2015-16 Capital Improvement Plan be approved and consideration be given to seek funding for the projects cited in the Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2015-16.

Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Costa congratulated Board member Shelby Brown as well as Bryan Hall and Tyron Harris.

Mr. Costa noted most of our buildings are sixty years old. He stated the CIP plan has grown by 62% due to deferral of projects and the increase in construction cost estimates. To defer projects, i.e., to wait five years or more, will cost \$1.2 million. Mr. Costa noted we would like to address the priority projects; i.e., (1) replace exterior window wall system at EHMS; (2) EHMS Science Wing ductwork on roof; (3) Silver Lane Roof Replacement.

Mr. Rup noted that many of the projects are considered “wish list” priority; however, Mr. Costa stated others are a “must”.

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Tom Rup

To **remove from table and approve** items 2-8 and 10-12 placed on this evening’s Consent Calendar:

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- Motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Retirements and Resignation:

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Tyron Harris

To approve the following three (3) **Retirements:**

1. Laura Brancato, teacher, effective 6/30/15;
2. Janice Cianciulli, teacher, effective 6/30/15;
3. Mora Martin, teacher, effective 6/30/15;

And

To approve the following **Resignation:**

1. Sara Slogesky, teacher, effective 2/16/15

Motion unanimously carried.

Langford Roof Replacement

Al Costa, Director of Facilities

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Tyron Harris

To approve the Langford Roof Replacement. In order to allow the initial grant application to be accepted by the State SFU, this office recommends the Board of Education act on a resolution to set aside funds in the amount of \$6,480 which will represent the additional Local Share funding to satisfy the initial grant requirement.

Motion unanimously carried.

Access Transportation LLC Consent Letter

Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services

To approve the Access Transportation Consent Letter. Access Transportation Solutions LLC is the current provider for Out of Town and other Out Placed Students. This contract was awarded in March, 2014 and is good through June, 2017 with two additional one year renewal options. Lou Annino, the owner, is in the process of selling Access Transportation Solutions LLC to

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LMZ Transportation Equity Partners, LLC and the sale needs the approval of the East Hartford Board of Education

A Consent Letter, made available to the Board of Education, assures the East Hartford Board of Education of the same high quality service as well as adherence to all the terms and conditions of the original contract.

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To give consent related to the contract for transportation services dated as of March 20, 2014 between the East Hartford Board of Education and Access Transportation to sell all of his membership interests and assets to LMZ Transportation Equity Partners, LLC. The Board hereby consents to the Assignment.
Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Mainuli congratulated Chairman Bryan Hall and Secretary Tyron Harris on their new positions on the Board.

Policy 3542.33 – Food Sales Other than National School Lunch Program

MOTION By Valerie Scheer
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To refer to Policy & Audit Committee Policy 3542.33 – Food Sales other than National School Lunch Program
Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Mainuli is recommending **rejecting** CABE's suggested policy as it is covered in the Healthy Food Certification which is reviewed annually.

Glastonbury East Hartford Elementary Magnet School (GEHMS) Agreement

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the Glastonbury East Hartford Elementary Magnet School Agreement from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018.
Motion unanimously carried.

To Approve the Technology Grant

MOTION By Tyron Harris
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To submit a second grant to the Connecticut State Department of Education for \$500,000 to be used specifically for the purchase of laptops, desktops, and interactive projectors for classrooms and dedicated to improvements in the technology infrastructure so that EHPS can increase bandwidth, expand the reliability of its wireless networks, and improve information delivery.
Motion unanimously carried.

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Board Member Representative Reports

Stephanie Watkins – (1) attended Mayberry School PBIS assembly; (2) attended President’s Day assembly; (3) CREC Council is looking to replace their Executive Director;

Valerie Scheer – Pitkin School - March 2nd is Read Across America Day. Board members are encouraged to attend.

Questions and Concerns by Board Members

Tom Rup – re: school calendar – he believes it should remain local.

Topics for Future Agendas - None

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Tyron Harris

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:25 PM)

Motion unanimously carried.